



Contents

Superintendent’s Proposal for Adoption of Seal of Civics Literacy 1

Community Service Requirements 2

 Examples 2

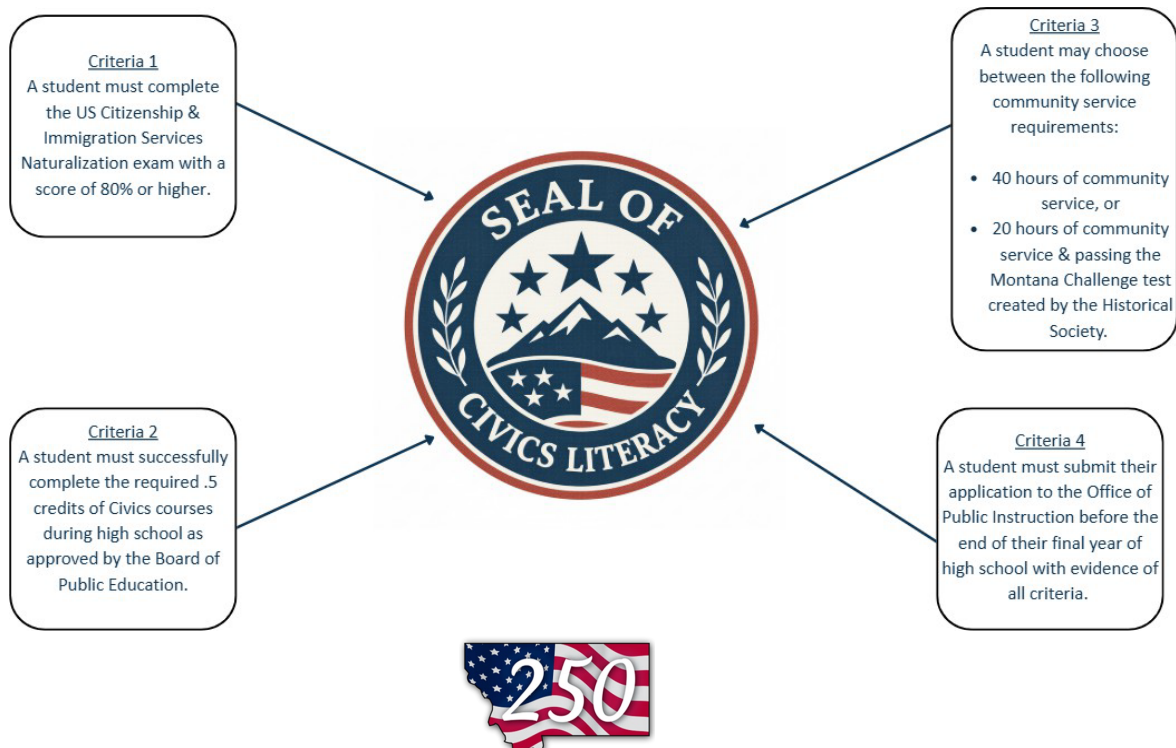
Timeline..... 3

Seal Of Civics Literacy Submission Information 4

Superintendent’s Proposal for Adoption of Seal of Civics Literacy

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. Through collaboration between the Office of Public Instruction, 250th Commission, Historical Society & Board of Public Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction intends to honor this anniversary with the establishment of a Seal of Civics Literacy. A number of states already have a Seal of Civics Literacy, and this plan incorporates elements from those state models. This plan recognizes the growing desire for robust civics education in our education system, and to celebrate the achievement on part of the students.

This proposal also helps the OPI to better fulfill MCA 20-7-119, encouraging civic engagement for students and providing opportunities for student achievement and acknowledgement.



Community Service Requirements

A student interested in applying for the Seal of Civic Literacy must display dedication to their local and state community by completing required community service hours. Students are required to complete 40 hours of community service OR 20 hours of community service and successful completion of the Montana Challenge test created by the Montana Historical Society and the Sons and Daughters of Montana Pioneers. The Montana Challenge was created with a Study Guide to help ensure that all test takers are prepared with the same level of knowledge; it is anticipated that some of the hours that would have otherwise gone to community service projects will be utilized to prepare for taking the Challenge. Study guides for both the Montana Challenge and the USCIS Naturalization Test can be found on the Office of Public Instruction’s website.

Informational documents including information and requirements, frequently asked questions and submission requirements can be found on the Office of Public Instruction’s website as well.

Examples

The following are examples that will be accepted:

Category	Examples
Education & Mentoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peer tutoring hours ● Reading to children at a local library ● Coaching teams for local sports programs
Environment & Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cleaning a local community space ● Participating in service-based organizations ● Volunteering at a local animal shelter
Human Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Volunteering at local human services organizations (food bank, soup kitchen, shelter, etc.) ● Volunteering with children/elderly
Student Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Serving in a leadership position (school leadership, CTSO leader, FFA, etc.) ● Serving as a youth representative on a local/statewide board ● Planning community service events
Civic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Helping at a polling station on election day



Timeline

- January 2026: OPI & MT 250th Commission present to Board of Public Education.
- January- May 2026: Office of Public Instruction, MT 250th Commission, Board of Public Education & Montana Historical Society collaborate on marketing and outreach to schools.
 - At this time teachers will be administrating USCIS exams and collecting scores, students will be completing any necessary community service and/or completing the Montana Challenge test.
 - Study guides for both tests available on the Office of Public Instruction’s website.
- May 1st, 2026: All applications and corresponding documents are due.
- May- June 2026: Application materials will be reviewed; Seals & certificates will be sent to schools for awarded students.
- After June 2026: In accordance with MCA 20-7-119, the Superintendent of Public Instruction will annually publish a list of high schools in the state who will be considered “all-star schools” based on engagement of the administration of the USCIS Naturalization test.



Seal Of Civics Literacy Submission Information



Step 1: Request USCIS and/or MT Challenge Link from the Office of Public Instruction’s Seal of Civic Literacy website under “Submission Information” tab. This will take you to a Qualtrics link to fill out brief information.

Step 2: Administer USCIS Naturalization test (*required for application for Seal of Civic Literacy) & MT Challenge (*required if only completing 20 hours of community service).

- Students MUST pass with a score of 80% or better on both tests.
- Students MUST save the score report(s) and include it with submission materials.

Step 3: Log community service hours and gather signatures from supervisors.

Step 4: Complete .5 required credits of Civics courses by end of high school (list of acceptable courses can be found on the Seal of Civic Literacy website page under “Submission & Requirements” tab)

Step 5: Collect all materials and submit the student application (can be submitted digitally or printed). All printed applications must be submitted to the Office of Public Instruction by May 1st.

Step 6: All students who qualify for the Seal will receive seals and certificates at their school address (unless attending a home school site)

Questions or concerns? Contact Tyler Capece, OPI Assistant Deputy Superintendent,
tyler.capece@mt.gov

